

Her talent, demeanor, and style will be missed coming into our homes and our minds. We thank Barbara for the contributions and impact she has given us, and we wish her well in her next adventure.

MARKING ONE YEAR SINCE THE PULSE NIGHTCLUB SHOOTING

HON. STEPHANIE N. MURPHY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2017

Mrs. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, one year ago this week, 49 beautiful, innocent lives were stolen from us and countless others were forever changed as a result of the tragedy at Pulse Nightclub in Orlando.

The losses were staggering. The act shocking. And the stories heartbreaking.

It was a tragedy that did not represent the Orlando I know, a vibrant city that prides itself on its love, inclusion and hospitality.

Orlando is not a perfect city, but it is a great city. In the aftermath of this tragedy, our city was tested, but it was never broken.

Everyone in Orlando from courageous police officers and first responders to compassionate medical professionals and complete strangers, came together in our darkest hour. Ordinary citizens did extraordinary things. We proved we were Orlando strong and Orlando united.

That's why Monday—Orlando United Day—and everything it represents, is so important for Orlando, and our nation.

I stood alongside thousands of people at the Pulse memorial in Orlando on Monday morning.

The memory of that event is still vivid, but the love and unity within our city has never been stronger.

I remember the first time I visited those sacred grounds after that tragic night. I was overcome with emotion by the outpouring of love written onto walls, within picture frames, and in notes tied to flowers. I came across a simple message written in chalk with a heart drawn around it: "Keep Dancing."

We owe it to the victims and their families to keep dancing, and to do everything within our power to prevent tragedies like this from happening again.

That's why Congress must lead. We must continue to work together, Democrats and Republicans, to protect our communities from these horrific acts.

Hope that things can and will change should drive our efforts. While 49 voices were forever silenced here one year ago, hope, as Harvey Milk once said, hope will never be silent.

We must honor the lives and legacies of the Pulse victims by putting aside that which divides us and rededicating ourselves to treating one another with love and respect.

Today, let's remember 49 beautiful lives that were lost one year ago. Their names and faces must inspire us to be better people, and a better nation.

May God bless the memories of the Pulse victims and their families, and may we all keep dancing.

ASHLEY GARCIA GOMEZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2017

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Ashley Garcia Gomez for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Ashley Garcia Gomez is a student at Arvada K-8 School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Ashley Garcia Gomez is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Ashley Garcia Gomez for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

HONORING THE 75TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF JAMES AND MADELINE PETRASKE, RESIDENTS OF NISKAYUNA IN THE STATE OF NEW YORK

HON. PAUL TONKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2017

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 75th Wedding Anniversary of James and Madeline Petraske of Niskayuna, New York.

James and Madeline met when James—who was dating a friend of Madeline's—offered her a ride home from her job at the National Baseball Manufacturing Company in Schenectady, New York.

The couple married two years later on Flag Day, June 14, 1942.

In 1944, as World War II raged on around the world, James and Madeline answered the call to serve. James left his job at General Electric to serve our country overseas. Madeline joined the war effort here at home as a nurse aid for the Red Cross.

The two wrote to each other regularly until James returned home on June 25, 1946. James returned to his job at General Electric where he worked until he retired as a Manager of Shop Operations in 1961.

In addition to their service to our country, James and Madeline volunteered with Meals On Wheels throughout their lives, stopping only after Madeline and James had turned 89 and 90, respectively. Madeline, at the age of 97, continues to volunteer for the Disabled American Veterans.

James and Madeline are the proud parents of three children, five grandchildren, eleven great grandchildren and one great great grandchild.

Each night before they go to sleep, James tells Madeline she is the best thing that ever happened to him.

Congratulations to James and Madeline on their 75th Wedding Anniversary. We thank

them for their lifetimes of service to their community and country.

HONORING FAGEN ELEVATOR

HON. DAVID LOEBSACK

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2017

Mr. LOEBSACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Fagen Elevator, a family owned and operated business celebrating its 100th year of operation, in Keota, Iowa.

Fagen Elevator was established in 1917 by Walter L. Fagen. It has been continually owned and managed by members of the Fagen family since its establishment. Today, Fagen Elevators is operated by the fourth generation of Fagens, Larry and David. The Fagen family has accomplished an incredible amount in the 100 years that they have owned and operated the Fagen Elevator business in Keota.

Fagen Elevators has contributed greatly to Keota, and will continue to better the area for many more years to come. Again, I want to offer my congratulations to the Fagen family as they celebrate this exciting milestone and to thank them for their hard work as a pillar of the Keota community.

ASIA MONDRAGON

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2017

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Asia Mondragon for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Asia Mondragon is a student at Oberon Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Asia Mondragon is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Asia Mondragon for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES FROM NEW YORK'S 22ND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WHO WILL SERVE IN THE MILITARY

HON. CLAUDIA TENNEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2017

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize and to express my gratitude to the following individuals from New York's 22nd Congressional District who upon graduation from high school will serve in the military: